

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY : SECRET

PRIORITY: COURIER

TO : Department of State

755.11/7-1450

FROM : LUXEMBOURG 11 July 14, 1950

REF :

SUBJECT : BECH'S OPINION OF BELGIAN ROYAL CRISIS

EUR INDEX

23
For Dept.
use only.

JUL 21

RECEIVED ACTION INFO

DCR
OLI

SCR

12596

755.11/7-1450

Discussing the Belgian royal crisis, Bech remarked that he did not see how King Leopold could remain if he returned to the Belgian throne. He added that once a constitutional monarch has lost non-partisan national support and become in effect the prisoner of one political party, it becomes almost impossible for the institution to function effectively under modern conditions. He drew an interesting historical parallel between the present Belgian crisis and the abdication of Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide of Luxembourg in 1919 as a result of controversy over her attitude in World War I. He admitted he had defended Marie Adelaide because of her youth and inexperience and pointed out that he had done so as a member of the Christian Socialist Party, the Luxembourg equivalent of the Belgian PSC, which he implied was now leading Belgium into a situation appreciably more dangerous in the light of present European and world conditions than that faced by his own country in 1919. His personal experience makes him take a sympathetic and somewhat philosophic view of the Belgian crisis, the existence of which he sincerely regrets from both European and Benelux points of view.

Perle Mesta
Perle Mesta
American Minister

Copy to:
AmEmbassy, Brussels

DEPT OF STATE
JUL 21 AM 3 12 PM '50

RECORDS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *J.L. Smith* DATE *NOV 19 1982*

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

July 14, 1950

AGSwaney/kdh

1950 JUL 21 PM 1

OFF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESS'G

AUG 2 - 1950

SECRET FILE

FILED
HH

JUL 14 1950

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

with an endorsement of action taken.